ast evening, this time in the most brutal The desperate man is being ruarded by two men, but in their momentary absence attempted to butt his brains out on the stone walls and tried to tear the bandages from his throat with the object of tearing open the wounds, made Thursday with a razor. Smith has well-connected parents at Washington C. H., O., and was serving a ten years' sentence for robbery when he escaped. He will have over five years of solitary confinement on his return. He is a desperate crook and prizefighter, having trained "Kid" Reed for a fight at Alexandria, five years ago, and he once appeared in the ring with "Dan" Bailiff, in

#### Dog Fight and Cock Fight at Elwood. Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

ELWOOD, Ind., Jan. 17.-At an early hour this morning a crowd of sports assembled at the fair grounds, north of this city, and prepared a ringside for a dog fight, and a big cocking main, which was pulled off about 2 o'clock a. m. The dog fight was between "Tug Wilson," of this city, and "Beauty," of Chicago, and was for a purse of \$400. The dogs had a bloody fight of almost two hours' duration, which resulted in Tug Wilson killing the other dog and ending the tight. Then followed the cock fight, for a purse of \$200. This was won by the Elwood bird after a flerce con-

#### Mrs. Sue Zeek Paralyzed.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal. WINDFALL, Ind., Jan. 17 .- Mrs. Sue Zeek, widow of Capt. F. S. Zeek, late of this place, now deceased, was stricken Wednesday with paralysis, since which time she has remained unconscious. The patient is gradually growing worse and can live but a short time. Mrs. Zeek is a prominent member of the Rebekah Order and the W. R. C. of this place.

#### Got in the Wrong House.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal. BLOOMINGTON, Ind., Jan. 17.-At an early hour this morning Harry Massy, a young man, in an effort to reach his home while intoxicated entered the home of Timothy Monahon. A fight occurred in which Massy was shot four times and Monahon was dangerously stabbed. It is not believed that Massy will recover.

#### Indiana Notes.

The Blackford County Bank, of Hartford City has elected the following officers: W. B. Cooley, president; C. W. Cole, vice president; A. G. Lupton, cashier; J. A. New-

baurer, assistant cashier. The damage suit of M. A. Mitchell against the Lake Erie & Western Railway at Koresulted in a vertici for \$1.145. Mitchell sued for injuries received by falling into a cinder pit.

William Gaynor, the tall suspect arrested in Illinois and charged with the murder of Druggist Counts at Reelsville, was taken to Greencastle Sunday and placed in fail with Gray, the other suspect. His preliminary trial will probably be held this week.

# THE WORK SUMMED UP.

Indianapolis Money Conference Has Done a Public Service.

Altogether the conference may be considered a great success, exceeding the expectations of those who initiated it. So far as the declaration of principles is concerned there was absolute unanimity, the expression of which was marked by the greatest enthusiasm. The maintenance of the gold standard and the redemption and retirement of the government's legal-tender notes and their replacement by bank notes were the three points of doctrine which brought the delegates together on a common platform. The unanimity of the conference on these points teaches the important lessen that the men of affairs in the United States have made up their minds on these subjects, that their conclusions have been the result of experience, and that they are now prepared to battle for the policy that they believe to be necesary to prosperity in business. Inasmuch as this conference was a spontaneous gathering, being as far as possible removed from a put-up job, and having no conceiv able object except the public weal, its action must have a wide and beneficial influence. It is a part of the programme also to push the work so happily begun, by means of a permanent organization embracing the whole country, and not to desist until the currency question is settled on a basis conformable to the experience

of the civilized world. The mode of procedure adopted in this important undertaking was evidently the result of a compromise between two opposing views of policy. One of these contemplated the immediate appointment of a commission by the conference itself to investigate and report a plan of currency reform. The other proposed to ask Congress to pass a bill for the appointment of such a commission by the President. The plan actually adopted provides for boththat is, it will memorialize Congress, at the session which is expected to be called in March, to provide for the appointment of such a commission, fairing which the executive committee of the conference shall appoint one consisting of eleven members "to make a thorough investigation of the monetary affairs and needs of this country in all relations and aspects, and to make appropriate suggestions as to any evilfound to exist and the remedies therefor; and no limit is placed upon the scope of such inquiry or the manner of conducting the same, excepting only that the expenses thereof shall not exceed the sums set apart for such purpose by the executive commit-

Congressman Walker, chairman of th House committee on banking and currency, opposed this plan as involving too much delay. He thought that the present Congress ought to take the initial step because if it were postponed to the Fifty-fifth Congress, it would be practically carried over to the Fifty-sixth. The answer to this is that nothing prevents the present Congress from acting on the lines suggested and that Mr. Walker is the very man to set the ball rolling. He is the organ of the committee that has this matter in charge. If he can induce the present Congress to take such action, we shall applaud him to the echo and we think we might safely guarantee that no objection would be raised by any member of the Indianapolis

Mr. Fowler, of New Jersey, proposed that a committee of one from each State should be appointed to co-operate with the committees of Congress in the preparation of needful measures. This was rejected since it was believed to be impracticable to constitute a working committee in that way. Although Mr. Fowler's motion was not agreed to, he won the hearty applause of the convention for his speech, which seems to have been of uncommon excellence. He said that national bankruptcy would some day befall us unless the government should go on and assume the functions of a bank of discount as well as a bank of issue, of should provide a system of taxation with special reference to the gold reserve, or should retire the demand notes altogether and leave the banking business to the banks exclusively. The latter he contended was the only safe policy. Government notes were not only the most hazardous but the

most expensive kind of currency. This is a proposition which is very likely to be disputed, but what are the facts? Simply these, that the government suspended payment on its demand notes for seventeen than four of these, if any, could suspension be accounted necessary. On the other hand, the longest bank suspension the country ever experienced was only four years, and even that was precipitated by the government itself. Mr. Fowler's proposition can be easily maintained. The government is Hable to suspend at any time. It would have suspended two or three times since 1863 but for the lucky discovery of laws on the statute books which Congress would not now have passed. In other words, if the credit of the legal-tender notes had depended upon any Congress that we have had in recent years, it could not have been maintained. We should have been bankrupt before now and wallowing in free silver and

# New Point in Liquor Legislation.

New York Evening Post. The Massachusetts law limiting liquor Heenses to one for every one thousand inhabitants has been declared constitutional. It was attacked on the ground that it, in effect, gives to the proprietors of licensed places unequal advantages and peculiar and exclusive privileges, and so conflicts with the State Constitution and with Article 14 of the amendments of the United States Constitution. The Supreme Court upheld the law as being a reasonable exercise of the police power of the State. "It is too the court said. "to question the validity of such statutes. This one does not differ in substance from any statute which forbids the carrying on of a trade or business or the exercise of a profession by other than licensed persons. Such statutes are upheld because the resulting exclusion of unlicensed persons is not designed to confer on those who are licensed an exclusive benefit, privilege or right, and where that result does follow it is merely the collaterat and incidental effect of provisions enacted solely with a view to secure the welfare

## No Cause for Anxiety.

Deacon Johnson-I'm afraid dat ef yo' married mah daughter I would hab to asto manufact all right. You wouldn't hab to ferences from the record. The important for numa' but take care ob her an' de chil- fact to notice is, that the famous "year of

## BUSINESS IN 1879 AND 1897

SOME OF THE POINTS OF RESEM-BLANCE IN THE TWO YEARS.

Doubt and Uncertainty in the Resumption Year-The Real Change Not Witnessed Before July.

New York Evening Post.

There are certain points in the present commercial and industrial situation which have suggested analogies with 1879. Among these points may be mentioned the fact that in 1896, as in 1878, the balance of foreign trade was enormously heavy in our favor; that the steady outflow of gold has been succeeded by a rather continuous inflow; that the wheat crop has proved defiheavy in this country, and that the vote at the fall elections, in 1896 as in 1878, was strongly confirmatory of a sound-money | standard for our currency.

These analogies are sufficient to show that the situation does bear some strong points of resemblance. Eighteen hundred year of specie resumption, but as a period so disappointingly in nearly all branches of | These last call for no special remark. They trade that the mere comparison with 1879 | are the worst of the lunatics of the colony, has been discouraging to business men. I and a large number are convicted crim-Most people suppose, in a general way, I mals. They are now housed in a series of that the nation's commercial prosperity, very substantial buildings, which were foreighteen years ago, began immediately on | merly devoted to the lepers. So efficient, the first of January, when specie payments | however, is the management and attendwere by law resumed. Such people appear to have expected precisely such a return of trade-prosperity immediately after the sound-money vote of last November, eastern beach of the island, the first for Everybody knows how far such expecta- males and the second for females. In each tions have been disappointed as applied to 1897. It is not generally known, however, While the whites are, of course, placed by

that the disappointment was equally great during the opening months of 1879. After the resumption of specie payments in January, 1870, the stock market opened with great buoyancy. The advance lasted about as long, and was about as great, as the advance in stocks based upon the November election last year. Meantime there was no sign of favorable movement in general trade. During January, 1879, complaints of unprofitable business and trade stagnation were general; London sold American securities to New York; money in New York was a drug because there was absolutely no demand for commercial purposes. At the close of the menth, Ellison & Co.'s cotton circular described the condition of the cotton trade in this country and in Europe as so bad that lower wages for cotton operators were predicted inevitable. During the early part of January the Bank of England's discount rate was high; it ruled at 5 per cent, until the middle of the month, as a result of which sterling exchange stood almost at the gold-shipping point from New York. It will be observed that in this particular, also, the record duplicates the experience of 1897. The government revenues were very deficient. In the middle of February warnings appeared in many publications that unless Congress

THE WHEAT SITUATION. It is well known that the world's wheat situation, at the opening of 1879, was similar to that of the present year, and that the later prosperity of 1879 was largely based on the enormous foreign demand for American grain. But it is an entire mistake to suppose that this factor in the situation was operative from the year's opening. The was very much below the present average, The Argentine Republic, for instance, was exporting hardly any grain; Australia cut no figure in the world's export market. Nevertheless, the price of wheat, No. 2 red, at the opening of January, was only 1081/2 cents per bushel in New York, and the January exports of bread stuffs, as record-

d by the government authorities, were be-

ow the record for the month in 1878. In

might be looked for.

February and March the shipments of grain were heavy, and the price advanced eight or nine cents a bushel. This was based upon rumors of a deficient French rop and reports of bad weather in Eng-But even while these reports were coming n the movement of the wheat market was exactly similar to the recent movement of this season's wheat market under somewhat similar conditions. After each advance in price, early in 1875, there was sudden speculative selling, and the price once more receded. By April wheat was almost down to the January level. In June came the famous corner in Chicago wheat, when the New York price went up to \$1.20 per bushel, and the news at this time favored such a movement; for on the 5th of July people were wearing winter overcoats in England, and heavy rains were almost destroying the prospect of a harvest. Notwithstanding this fact, the price of wheat ieclined at New York city during the month of July, to a figure lower than its price at the opening of January. To this tact the

trade reports of that time are sufficient witness. It was not until the last days of September that the wheat market really seemed to take fire; it then advanced somecents a bushel within three weeks, the exports becoming simply enormous. The truth of the matter was that Europe had deferred as long as it possibly could its orders from America, in the vain hope that it might obtain its grain at easy prices. When the consumers could hold off no longer, the export movement began in quantity, and the rush of rising credit was felt throughout this country. COMING OF THE REVIVAL. But it was not until this month of September, 1879, or until very near it, that the

appreciated by trade and finance in general. As late in the year as June, sterling exchange advanced to \$4.89@4.90 for demand, and half a million of gold was shipped to for the corresponding period in 1878. The London agent to inquire if it was not possible in some way to arrange for the control of the sterling market by drawing on Europe through the establishment of a London credit; an operation which, if it had been attempted, might have foreshadowed the experience of 1895. The real change in the situation did not come until the middle of July. Up to that time the same uncertainty was expressed by business men. As late as the opening of March, 1879, the Financial Chronicle contained the following editorial remarks: "We have now entered upon our third month since the resumption of specie payments. 'Where is the prosperity promised with that event?" is the question frequently coming to us. 'Wheat is no higher. Corn is no higher. There is no money in any of the earth's products. Where is the promised prosperity?

in other words, as late as March, discouragement was general, and as late as June actual alarm was felt over the situation. The stock market did indeed improve from time to time; yet in February, London was a heavy seller of American securities; in March, the stock market broke repeatedly; in April, only professional speculators were active, and they were putting up cheap and worthless stocks. In the middle of July, however, the heavy outward movement of grain began to be

foreshadowed unmistakably. After a trifling gold shipment, the sterling exchange market broke with considerable violence, and at the same time there was great activity in securities at New York. The bank statements of that time showed continued increase of loans and deposits. In the opening week of August, sterling exchange fell to 4.831/2 for demand, and gold was engaged for import from the London market. Before the close of August, gold was coming in at the rate of two to three million dollars weekly. But what was of much more importance, the export trade suddenly exno means confined to wheat and corn. Almost all other products of the farm began to move out in unprecedented quantity. By the middle of the year, the record of exports since the 1st of January passed that of 1878. In September came the memorable boom in stocks; during the same month came the upward movement in the iron market. The year closed with a general movement of prosperity derstand the real analogy between 1897

couragement, and trade stagnation, until | Asia Minor with an escort of soldiers, nearly six months after resumption of

## BANISHED FOR LIFE.

The Outcasts of South Africa and Their Island Home.

London Daily Mail. On a low, rocky, sand-covered island in Table bay there has stood for many years an asylum most unique in its organization, established for those who leave the mainland for the mainland's good; for there, on Robben island, are detained the most dan- acts. gerous and criminal lunatics of the Cape colony and the whole of the lepers of South Africa, with the exception of the Transvaal. It is now some sixty years since the Cape government first began to deport its lepers to this desolate sand heap, where, eleven miles from the mainland, they would be quite harmless. Until two years ago the island was under the sole control cient in foreign states while reasonably of the medical superintendent, but the population had grown until, including the lunatics, convicts retained there as laborers and attendants, there were some fourteen thousand souls; and, as a result of a special commission, the civil authority was vested in a commissioner, while the medical staff was reorganized and restricted to its own and seventy-nine was a memorable year in | department. This, in spite of the strong the financial and commercial history of this | objection of the medical staff to the change country. It is remembered not only as the has worked so far exceedingly well. Her Majesty's commissioner in charge is Mr. when prosperity returned in a fibod to the | George Piers, who has already, while main-United States, after five years of dull and I taining strict discipline, gained the respect stagnant trade. In the fact that the pres- and affectionate good will of his very ent year follows another such period of mixed subjects. These number 304 male liquidation, the comparison of 1897 is inter- | lepers, 212 female lepers, while of the lunaesting. The year 1897 has, however, opened | tics there are 163 males and 92 females.

arce that during the last year no mechanical restraint has been found necessary. The leper asylums consist of two collections of detached wards, built along the ward there is a large dormitory, dining themselves, the colored patients are grouped as far as possible according to the districts from which they have been brought. Every ward forms a republic by itself, and, so long as assault and battery and wilful damage is abstained from, enacts its own laws; for the most curious thing about the asylum is that there have never been any regulations drafted for the patients to conform to. The surgeon in charge of the whole establishment, Mr. Everard B. Tod, with the assistant surgeon, Mr. Thornton, exercises a strong moral influence over all, and both are ably seconded by an excellent staff of attendants, but that is all. Every man gets up and goes to bed when he pleases, takes his meals when they are served, or puts his food by for a time more agreeable to himself, and wanders over the whole island, except the small inclosed parts-a space of some two miles by oneat his own sweet will. Very few of the patients are bedridden, and few still suffer any pain; the disease in its two chief forms, tubercular and anaesthetic, progressing surely, without much impairment of the vital functions, until towards the end. The females are naturally kept apart from the males within guarded inclosures, but that is the only difference in the treatment. They are, however, less easily restrained than the men, and the was careful a heavy and disastrous deficit civil power has consequently to be more often invoked for their judicious correction. The ordinary duration of the disease seems to be about twelve years, and the oldest leper inhabitant has only been on the island for fourteen years. But the majority of the deaths occur from chest complaints. The prevailing wind, the "southeaster," is known as the Cape Doctor on the mainland, but on the island, to the poor patients from the far inland plateaux, it means phthisis and death. The work of the surgeons, apart from the disease incidental to the situation of the asylum, is, however, wheat product of the world, at that time, very heavy, for, although leprosy is not susceptible to any known treatment, there is much dressing to be attended to, and many amputations and minor operations to be performed, to prolong life and lessen suffering. The troubles of these poor people are only to be understood by accompanying the surgeons on their daily rounds, and by conversing privately with the patients. Not one will admit that their disease is incurable, very many deny that they have the disease at all, and complain bitterly of conspiracies to deport them the island and insure their detention. Papers are freely supplied to them, and there is no restriction on the visit of friends, so that they are kept in touch with the events of the outside world. Nearly all the patients firmly believe that the surgeons are in league not to cure them, so

> would never get away." The same fate has met the attempt to establish a band. to promote football and cricket, and other outdoor and indoor amusements. In face of this, however, the surgeons a bath chair, which has been much appreciated, and Mrs. Thornton, wife of the second surgeon, has been very successful with a sewing party. In time success may come

as to detain them on that desolate spot

forever, and they refuse to be amused or

entertained. On one occasion Mr. Tod, for

set of excellent slides. For the first exhibi-

interest displayed; for the second there

Not till long after did he find out the rea-

universally considered "only a plan to make

them seem happy, so that people might be

brought over to the island to see how con-

tented they were wit.. their lot; then they

were four present, and for the third none

example, procured a magic lantern and

are cared for by the Rev. W. M. Watkins, with the Rev. G. F. Gresley as curate. There is also a resident minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, and other denomnations are represented by visitors. The quarters establishment, and is a very old building, a relic of the days when Robben | will sland was a fortified post. Very important results may be expected | price. asylum, for after many requests the sur- | temptible, overreaching trusts that has an geon in charge has now been equipped with existence in the State, and the courts are laboratory. All experiments before were | compelled to recognize them as such, as rather officially discouraged. All that can | there is no alternative. When the house is be now said, however, is that there is no completed he pays the contractor the known successful treatment of the disease. amount of his bid and any extras that Questioned as to the need for the strict segregation of lepers, Mr. Tod would only say that while leprosy was undoubtedly contagious to a certain degree, there was | the builder replies, "I paid the contractor no recorded case in the sixty years' history all the money I agreed to pay him, and I of the asylum of the contraction of the | won't pay any more." Well, a lien is filed, disease on the island by any attendant or | suft is brought, and he employs an attorother person whatsoever, and this in spite | ney. The court says: "Enter judgment of the great latitude permitted. He further | against the defendant, with costs, incerest pointed out, as a fact that had never before been made public, that, at any rate, so far as South Africa was concerned, there | ever attempted to build a house. The judgwas a high percentage of cases of the disease in the districts with the greatest rainfall and a very low percentage in the dry districts. The actual figures for 1895 were 19.9 per ten thousand of population in the rainy districts, and varied directly as the rainfall to the almost vanishing point of 1.5 and cannot see how he can be forced to pay per ten thousand in the most arid Karoo

Undoubtedly the situation of the island is bad and causes great suffering to inlandbred people. The one advantage is the security afforded by the twelve miles of generally rough sea, for the only successful escape on record was accomplished three although two were drowned in the surf at

## AN EVENTFUL CAREER. Or One Devised by an Exceptionally Fertile Imagination.

"Sell ten oxen and send me the money by telegraph." Such was the original message on a charge of swindling, is said to have handed to a Paris hotel keeper to whom she owed money, for the purpose of being whom she represented as looking after the broad lands, crammed with flocks and be given by the contractor to the supply herds, which she owned in the neighborhood, the landlord in question being so daz- | of this article has just gone through such zled by this demonstration that he not only | a siege, and he knows what he is talking panded to enormous proportions. It was by | put his bill in his pocket, but advanced | about, he having had to pay about \$600 some funds. This person, who is of middle age, is accused of having similarly used was a stranger to the building operators. other hotelkeepers, whose accounts she and depended upon the advice of personal neglected to settle, and of having made friends, but he was caught and had to pay. other dupes as well; but, as she stoutly de- I earnestly hope that some or our earnest nies all these soft impeachments, and dethat she is honest as the day, it is question before the Legislature and fight only right to await the issue of the affair | it to a finish. ere pronouncing a definite opinion on this odd case. Meanwhile, her story of her ca-It is worth reviewing this record in order | reer is interesting enough in its way. She says that she first saw the light forty-one Abe Hardcase-Lawd, no: I kin take care | and 1879. Readers will draw their own in- | years ago in the Touggourt oasis, and that at the age of twenty she was wedded to a dren. Don't yo' worry yosaif about me. | fact to notice is, that the famous 'year of Turk in whose company she traveled on an | were frish dren. Don't yo' worry yosaif about me. | prosperity." 1879, was a year of doubt, dis-

the death of her husband she came to France, and delivered lectures on her journeys at Marseilles. She described herself on her cards as "Founder of anti-pagan and anti-slavery missions in the East,' giving her address as "Oasis of Teunoncha, in the Earbary Sahara. Circulars were issued by her requesting subscriptions for her missions, and she explained that one of the names which she bore meant it Turkish "the child beloved by the Lord," and had enabled her in her explorations to visit the most savage tribes and to establish friendly relations with the Touregs Such is the history of the eventful career of this lady, according to her own version, and the investigation which is now being set on foot by the police will show how far her pretensions to fame are justified by

# MECHANIC'S LIEN LAW.

Defects That Call for Remedy by the Present Legislature.

To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal: An article in to-day's paper on the "Mechanic's Lien Law" opens a subject of more than ordinary interest. The present law leaves the owner without protection. against rascality unless he exercises an amount of distrust and watchfulness usual only on the part of persons accustomed to deal with the criminal classes. Under the law an owner is not safe in making final payment for his building until sixty days have elapsed after its completion and the records in the recorder's office are searched for notices of lien filed by laborers, subcontractors and material men. These liens are not required to be preceded by notice to the owner or any other person, but are usually filed and thus made operative, with the silence of the fall of a snowflake, and when enforced by suit the owner is compelled to pay an extra amount to compensate the attorney of the lienholder for his services, besides the costs of the court and witnesses. So absolute is the security afforded the lien holder that the personality of the contractor, his reputation, and financial responsibility are rarely considered in deciding the question whether to give him credit to carry on a job. Indeed, it has happened a known tricky, dishonest contracbecause of a secret understanding to buy material or hire labor of a certain party. If a contractor should keep to his own use money trustingly paid him on an implied or declared promise that it would be applied to paying bills on the job, there is no legal offense committed, and no recourse for the owner but to pay the amount a second time and say a few hard words. The immunity from punishment for such breach of trust is so well known that there has arisen a class of contractors who will purposely bid below cost for the sake of the opportunity to get some of the money into their own pockets, and if the owner demands an explanation he is told a mistake was made in the figuring, and that the amount pocketed was no more than reasonable for the support of the contractor's family, which "has a right to live, It sometimes happens that moneys so paid have been applied to old debts, or to carry the contractor into a new job, but there is no way for the swindled owner to follow it up and make recovery. It may be said the owner can protect himself by exacting a bond with surety, but an examination of the court dockets shows that not one in ten bonds sued upon were enforced, because of changes made in the plans after the bond was given, it being a rule that the law in the case the facts shall be strictly construed in favor of sureties or bondsmen. The effect of the law has been to drive honest, responsible contractors out of business except as to the large jobs, and to bring the tride into almost general disrepute. It has also lowered the standard of work in almost every particular. That ome change in the present law is needed there is no question, but it is doubtful if it is possible to lessen the amount of protection afforded by the law, against the opposition of the interests getting the protection, else it would become easy for swindling owners, in collusion with rascally contractors, to defraud labor and dealers in material, as was the case beforthe present law was enacted. What seems most needed is a measure protecting the wher against the rescality of irresponsible certractors, and the suggestion is madthat this can be accomplished by enacting a law making the contractor or subcontractor, as between him and those performing labor or furnishing material, the agent of the owner, whose duty it is to use all moneys received to pay off such obligations, and declaring a failure to do so within a reasonable time to constitute the crime of embezzlement, punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both. Such a law would soon force out the dishonest, because

Indianapolis, Jan. 15.

starvation or the jail would make it im-

possible for them to long continue in busi-

Speaks from Experience. The article in Friday's issue in regard to is to the point, and I earnestly hope that tion there was a fair attendance and much | the present Legislature, which has a number of trust bills before it for consideration, will look into the law referred to. As known as "relief works" -that is, such pubson, which was that in every ward attend- | now upon the statutes of the State it gives ance had been forbidden because it was a class of citizens advantage over another having accumulated a certain amount of ployed. The wages paid are small, but as money, concludes to build a home for his family. He calls in a number of what he considers good, reliable and responsible work for their support. All the suffering carpenters and asks for bids upon the plans never lose heart, and with their wives and and specifications he has had made in acher Majesty's commissioner and his family cordance to the amount of money he while the mortality from crowding women, are always devising some new means of wishes to invest. The bids are compared Rhodes gave to the white female patients | and he asks for references. These are given, and from these the contractor is se lected; papers are signed and the work goes The contractor has had a good send- will not or cannot bring themselves to off by his friends; great confidence has food, and who must have it brought near been placed in the references, and they are The spiritual needs of the whole island supposed to be reliable citizens. The man may be closely confined to his employment; therefore do a great work in the distribuprobably he requests his wife to go over and see how things are getting on. She reports that work is progressing nicely. On Sunday the husband and wife take a walk church of the island is near the head- over to the new home. They discuss how through thousands of villages remote from will expend the \$200 they have left when the contractor been never dreaming that they in future from the study of leprosy at this | are in the toils of one of the most con

might have been agreed upon. The supply men come along, and bills probably and attorneys' fees." turns to his wife, regretting that ment rendered will take the money he had intended to pay for a few comforts in household affairs, and, besides, he must put a real mortgage on his home to pay th balance of the judgment. The builder has no voice or knowledge of the bills made a debt contracted by another, even without a personal or written order. It is supposed hat all laws are created for the benefit of another. It sumed that the supply man as affairs of the contractor than a man who years ago, when six colored lepers made a is not familiar with this class of business rough boat of boards and paddled it across, and consequently they should not seek refuge behind what might be presumed to be a just law. If the truth was known nearly every home that has been built dur-

ing the existence of this unjust law is plastered with these liens. They cause a cloud to exist on the title and reflect on the innocent builder a shadow of dishonesty. The Legislature should take up this matter and weed out all defects contained in this mechanic's lien law. Protect the inno cent home-builder against this gigantic supply trust. Let every litigant pay his own attorney, and when a mortgage is filed let the party filing pay his own expenses thereto attached. If a bondsman is asked for, they invariably wiggle out of paying anti-trust representatives wal bring this

Plausible in Boston. Boston Transcript.

Brazil, Ind., Jan. 16,

ENORMOUS DIFFICULTIES THAT BE-SET THOSE WHO UNDERTAKE IT.

Causes of the Present Famine and Extent of the Suffering-Some Records of Similar Disasters.

New York Observer.

With an overcrowded population of 200,-000,000 of peasants whose annual supply of food depends upon a rainfall subject to decided irregularities, it is inevitable that India should suffer from frequent and destructive famines. Meteorological observations have disclosed no rule of periodicity in these failures of rainfall by which seasons of drouth can be forecast with certainty. They have on the other hand, established the fact that the fall is never either deficient or excessive in any single year throughout the whole of India. There is thus always a reserve of food supply in some part of its area, which may be drawn upon for use in the needy districts. It has been discovered, too, that winters marked by an excessive snowfall in the Himalayas are always followed by diminished summer rainfall, generally in northern India, but sometimes in other portions of the great peninsula. Apart from these few facts, gathered within the past quarter of a century, there is little data from which seasons of drought may be forecast, though it is known that a drought, once begun, generally extends over two or more years. The approach of scarcity can be determined only in the year in which it actually occurs, and by a system of observations beginning with the June rainfall and continuing until the autumn has made certain and insufficient supply for the winter crops.

Of the extent of the suffering from drought and crop failure Asiatic world Western peoples have a faint conception. In the great drought in northern China in 1877-1878 no less than 9,500,000 persons percentury, at least no single famine in India. has attained that magnitude, it is estimated that in the score or more disasters of the kind which have occurred, between 15,000,-000 and 20,000,000 lives have been lost. That which began in 1875 and culminated in 1877 was the most prolonged and destructive, resulting in the death of 5,500,000 persons. In 1865-66 a third of the population of 3,000,-000 starved to death in Orissa, and in 1868-1870 about 1,500,000 died from want in Rajputana. The famine of 1861 in the northwest provinces was a huge calamity, and the Berar drought of 1873-74 was only prevented from becoming so by lavish expenditure on the part of the Indian government. Prior to the white conquest famines of immense dimensions devastated the peninsula, resulting occasionally in an appatling decimation of the feebler classes of the population. These classes, numbering approximately 40,000,000, are always so near starvation that a season of drought reduces them at once to extremities of hunger.

OLD-TIME RELIEF METHODS. In the old days the devices for famine relief in India were of the usual Asiatic sort. First, the shops of the grain dealers were sacked and their owners murdered. When that failed the offices of the native govroyal granaries were emptied the gods were propitiated with sacrifices, ending with the slaughter of human victims and the distribution of their flesh over the barren fields. But during the past thirty years these devices have given way to remedial measures of a more plactical and effective kind. Taught by long experience, the government of India has elaborated a system of relief, machine-like in its operation, capable of being put into effect at any time and of adjustment to the needs of any particular scarcity. The old notion that a government cannot be made re ponsible for deaths from starvation any more than for deaths by fever has disappeared. Every rural official is made to feel his responsibil ity and is minutely instructed beforehand as to his particular duty in each stage of scarcity. First, a system of crop forecasts gives notice of the possible approach of tamine. When the possibility becomes from further reports probability the government begins active preparations to meet it. Its forecasts may not prove correct, but it acts at once and energetically, knowing that if it waits to verify its estimates action will be too late to be effectual. The fact that only one full crop in

year has been reaped, that the late fall crop is deficient and the crop due in the spring is in jeopardy is sufficient to set the great machine in motion. The character of that machine and the method of its operation is well known to every district officer in India. It embraces what are works as the construction of railways, the digging of canals and wells, turning the courses of rivers, etc., on which thousands upon thousands of the distressed are emthe government seeks to prevent the creation of a pauper class on a huge scale the needy are, so far as possible, required to cannot, however, be drawn to the relief works. Could they be, the task of relief would be a comparatively simple one, for children and the aged into the extempocould and would be prevented. But there is a large percentage of the suffering who enough to their homes for purchase if they are not to starve. The government must tion of food, and for this purpose must not only accumulate supplies of grain at great centers, but arrange to transport grain to hundreds of thousands of people scattered

OTHER DIFFICULTIES As the difficulty of such distribution is nels of trade. It interferes only when the people on the strength of their holdings. At the same time, by raising the price of grain, they force the people to economize, the se eason of scarcity much better than would be expected from their apparent resources, But there is in many districts of India a large class of landless laborers, who have nothing on which to borrow, and who form the most hopeless element in a famine. So long as they can get a quarter meal daily for themselves and their families they will cling to their huts and shut their eyes to their impending fate. When all is gone apathy is succeeded by a sudden burst of despair, and, as in the famine of 1866, thousands of starving men, women and children flee from their homes in a vague hope of finding relief somewhere. To this class must be added the poorer artisans, the great crowd of incompetents who save nothing and the class still lower, which lives no one knows how, but which lives, nevertheless. It is for these classes chiefly that the

government of India is now putting its machinery of relief into operation over a region in northern India one thousand miles long and five hundred miles wide. That it will work so effectively that all loss of life will be averted is not to be expected. A serious defect of the system is the inadequate provision made for importing and storing grain in the distressed districts which are emote from the line of railway or river highway, and for which the petty dealers have no facilities. It is in these tracts that distress first shows itself, and if the grain is not there a people may starve while the carts are going on their journey. It was leaving this work to private enterprise that converted the famine in the northwest provinces and Orissa in 1861 and 1866 into appalling caiamitles. The most that can be loped, therefore, is a reasonable measure of success. The distress is on a vast scale, and, though the drought has been some what relieved by recent rains, 72,000,000 of people are still threatened with dangerous scarcity. To avert wholesale loss of life will necessitate an organization as if for a military campuign; and a campaign in a dozen regions as large as European kingdoms will be a herculean task. The demand will be gigantic, the people to be relieved are in many respects as helpless as the West was going to produce a literature children, and many of the officials who that would make all the intellectual pro-

daily in the central provinces. But the government realizes the magnitude of the danger, and will, moreover, be assisted by the easte system of India, which in time of scarcity acts as a charity organization society on an immense scale. What can be done will be done, but the reports are certain to grow more gloomy for the next two months.

## BUILDING AND LOAN.

An Argument in Behalf of the State Associations.

To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal: I notice in your paper, as well as others, that a great many comments against state building and loan associations have been made by papers and individuals, and it would appear that some are serious and mean well, some are prejudiced, and some very ignorant. Let us not be too hasty and look before we leap and see if we are benefited or not by such associations. All realize that many homes have been built by

this method, and the question arises, why not let the good work go on? Local and state associations conduct business generally under the same methods, locals confining their operations to their own immediate cities or towns, while state associations are generally ready to loan money all over the State. Their responsibilities are identical. The majority of locals are serial, while the majority of state associashares held by individuals is less in state than in local associations, showing conclusively that the money classes do not control state any more than local associations, Also, the per cent. of locals paying weekly is very great, while that of state associations paying monthly is greater, thus compelling the stockholders to make more payments, the difference being equal to one monthly payment more per year than in state associations. In voting about half of the locals allow each member one vote, regardless of number of shares held, while nearly all state associations allow each member one vote for each share of stock, thus allowing the stockholders to control the state institutions, as their proportion of stock to members is less than locals. Many locals loan money to other than stock- managing their own affairs in matters holders; state associations never. Many pertaining to supplying the librasuch towns, which has proved a blessing. Would any sane man expect an agent to and loaning money for his health? He and the men who have the ability to safely manage such institutions must be paid. What effect has it on locals? None. Why? Because locals never were and never will e able to meet the requirements of the borrowing members, because they have not the territory from which to get capital, with a few exceptions, in very large cities, Borrowers are always plentiful. If you want to have money to loan it takes husting to get that money. After you get it it takes men of known ability and experience to handle it safely and judiciously; they must be paid for their services, and most of the fees they get come from the borrower in the way of expense, etc., and not out of the expense fund, as some are led to believe. As to the rates of interest and premium charged, there seems to be a howl about extortion. Whenever you lower the loaning rate you cut off your nose. Why? Capital can always find a good and profitable investment. If you offer an inducement to capital it responds; if you do not it goes elsewhere. State associations usually issue paid-up and prepaid stock and pay fair dividends; anything less than is now paid is no induce-Why not pay it, as you pay on individual straight loans the same, if not more, and have to give more security At present loaning rates (6 per cent, interest and 6 per cent, premium) these dividends on paid-up and prepaid stock can be paid easily and also mature the installment stock, earnings on such paid-up and prepaid stock contributing to the earnings of installment stock helping to mature it. Some say loan at 6 per cent interest and 2 per cent. premium. Now, if you do, the earnings are less. If you cannot pay the management fair wages for their work they won't manage, for men of such ability and responsibility don't "have Leaving this out, however, if still pay the dividends as now on paid-up or prepaid stock, the installment stock is the sufferer and will run longer at 6.and 2 than 6 and 6 per cent., and this is the stock that would suffer, which is generally borrowed upon. If you don't pay the paid-up and prepaid stock a fair dividend men will not invest in it; if they will not invest where will you get your money to loan, as the installments are not sufficient to meet the demand? If you have no money to loan, how do you expect to get people to invest and carry stock with a view to borrowing? I know of an association that claims to loan at 6 and 2. Is this what you want? Well, we have it Let's see. There is no inducements; they have been in existence over a year, and have sold but \$1,000 in paid-up stock; most of its stockholders (about 400 shares) took stock to borrow. How long at this rate will it take to make their loans? Where is the benefit of a 6 and 2 rate over a 6 and 6 when the 6 and 2 cannot get money? It sounds well, but money talks, and if they haven't the money I cannot see that they benefit anyone. Capital responds to the call when you tickle it; if you tickle it with a fair rate of interest you will have money to loan; then you can sell stock and make loans, sell more stock and make more loans; the workingman is enabled to own a home and be happy, and croakers who are ever ready to depreciate any successful business never own property; but those who are being robbed have homes. Explain how the man who says he is able to run his own business and not be robbed by building and loan associations never owns property, while those who, as it is alleged

### Princeton, Ind., Jan. 16. BACK TO LIFE AFTER 31 YEARS. Release of a Prisoner Who Had Beer Legally Dead Since 1866.

GEORGE H. PADGETT.

by such croakers, are being robbed accumu-

late property and prosper. Let all stop

sociations. Help each other, and do not

allow trusts and banks to dictate and cause

us to become blind to our own interests.

croaking and push all local and state as

Through the clemency of former Governor Morton there will emerge from prison walls into freedom next spring a man who has suffered a living death for more than thirty-one years. The first thought that naturally comes is that this man will be almost overcome with joy at the prospect of his release. But on second thought grave doubt arises as to whether this unfortunate man will be even as content as he must have learned to be in prison when he is again out in the world, free to g where he pleases. He himself probably has no such doubt now, but it is much to be feared that when the prison doors have closed behind him he will realize what it is impossible for him to realize now. At the age of sixty-six years he will be atterly alone in the world, without resources, without the physical strength to make his way through what little of life may remain to him. She that was his wife she still lives, is the wife of another, for was legally dead when the life sentence had been imposed upon him, and she exercised her right to marry aggin; those who were his friends, all those years ago, are dead and scattered through the world. He will be a stranger among strangers. There are none to whom he can turn for sympathy, for aid, or even for the opportunity of making a living. Moreover, there will come to him, as never before, perhaps, the realization that his life, with all the opportunities which it might have held, has all but passed away. Governor Morton, before the expiration of his term, commuted the life sentence of George E. Gordon, now in Dannemora Prison, to fifty-two years, so that he will be released on May 8 next, the time off for good behavior being allowed. Gordon was sentenced in this city in 1866 to life imprisonment, after conviction of the murder of a stock drover by the name of Thompson in the West Albany cattle yards. Gordon was a resident of Greenbush and was thirty-five years of age when convicted.

The application for pardon has been on file in the executive chamber for twenty years and was signed by some of the most prominent people and public officials in nsselaer county. Gordon is at present the prison librarian at Dannemora, and his good conduct during his long confinement, together with the fact that he has always contended that he did not commit the crime, led to the Governor's favorable action on the application for elemency. Under the law at that time a person charged with murder could not testify in his own behalf, but he then declared his innocence. He was convicted on circumstantial evidence, considered strong.

The New Literature of the West. Buffalo Courier.

Gordon's wife has married again.

Hamlin Garland said not long ago that Francis Murphy says that Peter and Paul were Irishmen. Very likely. Both of them held office.

gained experience in previous famines have now left India. Already 330,000 persons have gone on relief works, and late dispatches though they had been sprouted in a state that thousands of persons are dying damp cellar. We scoffed at Mr. Garland,

but his words have come true. In the augural address of Governor Leedy, of Kansas, the new literature of the West bursts into full bloom all at once. There is nothing in it of seed time or the tender nature of the unfolding plant. Like the night-blooming cereus, it pops open all at once, gorgeous, eblouissant.

Library Legislation. To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal:

There was presented by Superintendent Goss, of Indianapolis, at the meeting of the Indiana Library Association the outline of a library bid which will be presented to the General Assembly during the present session. There are many points of excellence in the proposed bill, but the discussion which followed its presentation, which, by the way, Superintendent Goss, who prepared the bill, aid not stay to hear, brought out many things in it which seemed not to meet the wants and wishes of the people present, who were, for the most part, club members, library workers and librarians. Whether it is denied or not, the fact remains that there has been a lack of harmony in the State in the boards which combine the management of both schools and libraries. There should be arrangement made for a separate board of management for the governance of libraries, from the State library down, aside from the boards of education. The scheme proposed by Mr. Goes seems to provide that the lamb and the lion should tions are permanent. I think statistics lie down together, but with the lamb inside the lion, the lamb in this case being would show that the average number of the library. Mr. Goss explained the giving of the management of libraries to the educational boards by saying that the people will not tolerate the appointment of the new officers necessary to carry out the plan proposed. He also stated that the Board of Education did not desire the management of these affairs; that they were already overburdened with other matters and did not have the time to give to such an mportant work. If this is so, then board ought certainly to be relieved by the appointment by the Governor of an independent library commission, composed of noted for their intelligence and for their knowledge of library matters. This plan has been followed by the States having the most progressive libraries and schools, and no great breach of honesty or dereliction of duty seems to have come from it. There seems to be in the proposed bill of Mr. . Goss entirely too much distrust rural districts being capable materially benefited by locais, but state being honest in making the purchases. associations are enabled to loan money in As the bill reads, nothing can be purchased without the approval of the board, which is to be appointed by the State Board of travel over the State soliciting members | Education, and answerable to it alone. Will the people more readily approve a set of officers appointed by this able body than one appointed by the Governor, as is done in other States? While there should be cooperation in the work of libraries and schools, the management should be separated as widely as possible. Library commissioners in other States serve without

pay. Have we none fitted for the work who will do so in Indiana? Another point objected to in the bill as read was the views entertained in regard to the State library. It should not be forgotten that the primary intent of this institution is to furnish a safe and intelligent custodian of State papers, documents, reports, government publications and kindred things valuable to those who need them. The province of a State library is also to furnish to the citizens of the State sources of information along certain lines which the other libraries of the State cannot afford to furnish, and concerning which one source, rightly administered, is sufficient for the whole State. This, I believe, was

the policy of the recent administrations in building up the State library. There was a committee appointed by the Library Association to confer with the one from the Indiana Union of Literary Clubs, Teachers' Association and other associations interested in the matter of library association. Will it not be well for those in charge of the proposed bill to at least listen to what others as deeply interested have to offer on this subject? Unless there is a united request there will be nothing done, but it seems hardly fair for one body of people to coerce others into silence by a

fear of losing all. The Library Association passed the following resolution: "Whereas, The interests of education have been greatly obstructed by the law requiring the establishment of a library of the value of \$1,000 by donation in communities outside of cities before the people can levy a tax on themselves for the maintenance of a free public library; therefore, "Resolved, That said obstructive law should be repealed, and that any township and any incorporated town should be permitted to establish a free public library and to maintain the same by taxation." With such laws passed as will remove the obstructions here referred to, and a library commission like that of Oh'o or Wisconsin appointed to help the many libraries that would result from such removal, the mat-

ter might well rest for the present until new needs will more fully develop them-A TAXPAYER. Indianapolis, Jan. 16.

His Explanation.

Tenderfoot Dentist .- Why, somebody has simply drilled your teeth without filling Pizenwood Pete-That's right, pard.

Tenderfoot Dentist-Wh-what wa-was

Pizenwood Pete-Yer see, I can't keep "um shootin' ever' time a nerve's teched!

The Thing to Do.

Governor Leedy says Kansas has been "a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night." What Kansas should do, then, is to turn on the hose and wait till the clouds roll by.

You may get over that slight cold all right, but it has left its mark on the membranes lining your throat. You are liable to take another cold and the second one will hang on longer than the first. Scott's Emulsion is not an ordinary cough specific, but it is "the ounce of prevention." It builds up the system checks inflammation and heals inflamed membranes. "Slight" colds never bring serious results when it

is promptly taken. Book on the subject free.

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